



National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
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Press Release

NAEMT Re-Issues Security Alert For EMS Vehicles and Uniforms

Clinton, MS, Thursday, June 20, 2002 - 08:30: - The National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians has issued a Security Alert to EMT's, Paramedics and EMS Administrators to conduct a review of existing security measures for EMS vehicles and uniform articles. Based upon several reports that have been received in the last three weeks, the NAEMT has deemed it necessary to elevate member attention to this threat. "EMS personnel and organizations enjoy a very high level of public trust. The opportunity for someone to exploit that trust by portraying themselves as EMS personnel by unauthorized use of vehicles or uniforms must be diminished to the lowest possible levels. EMS must take every reasonable step to ensure that we protect the public and our members through the effective employment of accountability measures for our vehicles and uniforms," said NAEMT President Nathan R. Williams.

NAEMT Past President and Terrorism Task Force chairman Paul M. Maniscalco stated "While the initial reports received involved various inquiries about EMS operations and organizations via Internet email, we now have a event act where individuals acting suspiciously went to a Northern New Jersey shop that manufactures replica vehicles and offered to pay a cash for an EMS vehicle. EMS operational security is tantamount to keeping members safe and preserving the capacity to safely and effectively respond to emergency calls."

The National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians has also created a reference document to aid members and EMS organizations with the task of assessing vulnerability and the corrective measures needed. President Williams stated: "NAEMT established a Terrorism Task Force in 1990 to address these issues because we recognized the emerging threat that these events posed to our members and the communities that they serve. We will continue to inform our members of the changing threat landscape and measures needed to protect the individual and organization. NAEMT will be providing a full threat and response brief to the membership at our annual national meeting in October."

For Immediate Release, June 20, 2002

NAEMT Recommended Operational Security Measures:

EMS organizations should consider adopting the following initial steps for their operational security assessment:

EMT's and Paramedics:

- Members should be provided with a security briefing regarding present or emerging threats to their safety or the integrity of the EMS mission. The briefings can take many forms such as meetings, information sheets or supervisory briefings conducted at the commencement of a tour of duty.
- Members should be provided the opportunity by their respective EMS organizations to develop a greater sense of operational security and situational awareness. While the threats EMS faces are not new, they continually change requiring greater acuity and understanding.

Vehicles:

- Accountability of all vehicles—marked and unmarked—this includes tracking vehicles that are in-service, off service – reserve status, off-service--repair status and those that are going for salvage.
- EMS vehicles when unattended should NOT be left running or the keys left in the ignition.
- Tracking of vehicle access must include:
 - Insure that off service vehicles at EMS stations are secured in such a manner that significantly increases the difficulty of unauthorized access and use. Routine and random vehicle audits are encouraged.
 - Routine and random of vehicle and station key access logs. Inventory of keys should be conducted to account for all keys. Take requisite security corrective measures should keys be discovered unaccounted for.
 - Insure that EMS vehicles that are off premise for service are accounted for especially when not in direct possession of the EMS organizations. This includes, in addition to government based repair facilities, contracted vendor services that require the vehicle to be shipped off site such as radio repair firms, mechanical and bio-medical repair and warranty service. EMS organizations are strongly encouraged to discuss security measures with repair facilities and vendors to confirm that they understand the requirements to secure the vehicle and your compliance expectations. Such requirements might be:
 - Securing the vehicle in doors overnight when facility is closed.
 - Not leaving the keys in the vehicle.

- Not allowing the vehicle to be taken off vendor premise for any reason other than directly related to the repair and return of the unit to the owning organization.
- Reporting to the EMS organization and Law Enforcement officials any unusual interest in the vehicle while in their possession.
- Decommissioned vehicles slated for resale, but not to another bona fide emergency response organization, or vehicles scheduled for salvage, should be stripped of agency identifying markings by complete removal or destruction by grinding. Uninstalling of emergency warning devices and other EMS markings is strongly encouraged.

Uniforms and Identification Articles:

- Safeguard agency patches and ID cards to insure defense against unauthorized access.
- Adoption of counterfeit resistant identification credentials that incorporate a photo of the authorized member.
- Alert uniform store vendors of the need to establish and verify the identity of an individual seeking to purchase your uniform articles. This should be accomplished by verifying agency Identification Credentials. More comprehensive processes such as a contact number with your agency to verify identity against the database of authorized active members should be considered.

BACKGROUND:

NAEMT is the sole professional organization representing the interests of the nations EMT's and Paramedics.

For additional information please contact NAEMT Headquarters at 1-800-34-NAEMT or Paul M. Maniscalco at 973-568-4293.

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